

YOXALL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council
held on Thursday, 2nd November 2023 at 7.30pm
in the Parish Hall, Yoxall

Present: P Hughes, J William, M Arch, R Yapp, S Evans, P Kitt,
P Bailey and R Keys

Also Present: Eight Members of the Public
J Jones
R Young – Clerk to the Council

1) APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from D Muir and J Jessel.

2) CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman, P Hughes, mentioned the following:

- Meeting with J Jones regarding grants available and possible projects.
- Sports Club Lease.
- Internet speed and connection.
- Flooding and availability of Sandbags and location. Reviewing what other Councils do regarding Flood Plan.

3) DECLARATION OF INTEREST

- Declarations to be made when relevant matter raised.

4) TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THE 5TH OCTOBER 2023

It was proposed, seconded and agreed to approve the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on the 5th October 2023.

Resolved: To approve the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on the 5th October 2023.

5) MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

- No matters raised.

6) PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

➤ Ferrers Field Development Group

- Upgrading Ferrers Field Play Area.
- Want to check they have the support of the Parish Council.
- Present plan for Ferrers Field requires matched funding.
- Young Parishioners said they need a place to go.
- Need to connect all sections of field.
- Accessible to all ages of children – develop path around field to open for all.
- Pushchair and wheelchair access.
- Quotations and plans needed for funding bid.
- Plans to raise funds including matched funding and crowd funding.
- Hoping to start project in 2024.
- Also need to consider ongoing maintenance costs.
- It was proposed (J Williams), seconded (P Kitt), subject to provision of acceptable plans by the Ferrers Field Development Group, the Parish Council will grant permission for improvements to the Ferrers Field Play Facility
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Resolved: Subject to the provision of acceptable plans by the Ferrers Field Development Group, the Parish Council will grant permission for improvements to the Ferrers Field Play Facility.

7) REPORT OF COUNTY COUNCILLOR AND BOROUGH COUNCILLOR

a) Report of County Councillor

J Jessel had confirmed the following:-

- Arranging for drains to be cleared on Main Street plus a sweep.
- Work on A38 complete.

b) Report of Borough Councillor

J Jones reported on the following:-

- Tourist Development Grant.
- Cost of Living Support Package.
- Warm Places Grant.
- Christmas Light switch on in Burton.

8) **PLANNING**

R Keys reported the following:-

Planning Report – November 2023

Applications

P/2023/00987 – Moat Bank, Town Hill – Proposal for an extension of upper storey over larger ground floor area of the property. Upper floor to be clad in vertical timber boards. NB: The property is not in the Conservation area.

P/2023/01042 – Polly Rose Cottage, Back Lane – Demolition of detached dwelling to erect larger dwelling and also Change of Use of agricultural land to domestic garden. Though this cottage is not listed or in the Conservation area, the proposal represents a radical change in design and size in replacing the existing cottage.

Decisions

P/2023/00739 – Old Antique Shop, King Street – APPROVAL for conversion of storage shed into one bedroom annex and garage.

P/2023/00778 – Brackenhurst Farm, Newchurch – LISTED BUILDING CONSENT for replacing stable door and internal plaster repairs.

P/2022/01195 – Hadley House Farm, Dunstall Lane – PRIOR APPROVAL for conversion of an agricultural building into a domestic dwelling.

P/2023/00663 – The Nook, Victoria Street – APPROVAL for a single storey rear extension.

P/2023/00137 – Former Factory, Bond End – REFUSAL to demolish property and build eight detached dwellings.

P/2022/00900 – Redbank Farm, Maker Lane – APPROVAL for amended scheme as per original plans.

Sports Club

R Keys mentioned the following:-

- Porta cabins would need planning permission.
- 30-36 year lease needed for grant application.

- Existing Lease needs to be replaced.
- Annual charge to be reviewed.

9) CLERK'S REPORT

a) Correspondence

- Staffordshire Archives and Heritage Newsletter.
- SPCA Bulletin.
- Robin Carr Associates – Proposed diversion Yoxall F38.
- Julia Jessel – Temporary Road Traffic Closure Notice
- National Highways A38 Bulletin.
- SCC – “Winter is Coming”.
- SCC – “My Staffordshire”.
- Amy Jones – Broadband and Digital Divide in Yoxall.
- Mr & Mrs Marsden – Flood Planning.
- Ann Brooks – Hadley End.

10) MATTERS IN PROGRESS OR REQUIRING FURTHER ACTION

i) Conservation Group

S Evans reported the following:-

Poor attendance at the Green Corridor event on Saturday, 14th October due to weather. Work was achieved – clearance under holly tree at front of church and maintenance of the hedgerow planted last year in the burial ground. Dates for 2024 maintenance/work sessions to be issued in January 2024 and outlined at December meeting.

The Conservation Group is currently compiling a grant application “Discover Yoxall” from ESBC Ward Enhancement Programme, this to include Green Corridor project.

Two more villagers have been issued with litter pickers/hoop and will do a regular litter pick.

In January there will be extensive promotion of The Conservation Group and village groups will be contacted to ask them to join in.

J Williams commented there is a need to review the needs of the Parish Council with regard to grant applications. R Keys said the Parish Council could submit a cluster of grant applications to ESBC.

Footpaths

Weather has meant footpaths extremely wet and boggy. Finger post report to be sent to Paul Rochfort mid-November, reference replacement and new finger posts.

ii) Best Kept Village Competition

S Evans reported the following:-

Feedback from 2023 competition has not been received. Progressed with Jo Cooper and will be issued shortly. I have arranged a visit on Monday, 20th November from Mr William Reid, one of the regular judges to walk through the Yoxall judging area and discuss our options to strengthen weaknesses and be in readiness for our 2024 entry.

Collation of village events/achievements since last judging (July 2023) commenced and will be ongoing. This will be part of our 2024 entry and contain posters, notes and photos.

Yoxall Big Village Tidy Up Weekend, proposed for Saturday, 16th and Sunday, 17th March. Breakfast on Saturday and tea/coffee, cake on Sunday. There will be lots of publicity and local suppliers will be approached to support the refreshments. There will be other dates for tidying up throughout the judging period. These will also be advertised and invitations extended to all village groups to join in will commence in January 2024. Dates to be provided at December meeting.

Village groups will be contacted in January about their participation in 2024 competition. Details will be outlined at December meeting.

St Peter's School will be visited during forthcoming term about possible seasonal decoration of our two village bus stops for Christmas and BKVC 2024 posters.

iii) Riverside Regeneration

D Muir sent a report as follows:-

The Green Corridor Project

Hopefully, an extension of the project will take place if we can secure funding as part of the 'Visit Yoxall' application for a Ward Enhancement Programme grant which the Conservation Group are submitting. It will include wildlife habitats, seating, a sensory

area and Bible related plants and trees which will enable us to create a Bible Trail. Sue Evans has more details.

Goose Green

During the flooding of the River Swarbourn on 20th October, approximately a 2 metre stretch of the pathway was washed away. The top layer of an area near to the entrance has been swept away with receding water revealing the underlying hardcore. I have spoken to Paul Boulton for the best solution and he has suggested that we may want to leave it for a while to see if any more flooding occurs. The path in this area is very rough and uneven which would make it difficult for wheelchairs and pushchairs to travel over. Paul had agreed to inspect it and at this point in time, I haven't heard from him.

iv) Open Spaces

P Kitt reported the following:-

Ferrers Field – November Report 2023

The Quarterly Inspection by Sovereign is due week commencing 6th November.

Milne Holme Pingle – November Report 2023

Ken Raworth has quoted:-

£100.00 to repair fence to river.

£485.00 to install concrete posts and metal handrail to the path down into Milne Holme Pingle.

Council approval is sought to go ahead.

It was proposed (P Kitt), seconded (J Williams) and agreed to install concrete posts and metal handrail down into Milne Holme Pingle.

Resolved: To have work done.

Alison Thornhill of the Trent Rivers Trust, on behalf of Tarmac who funded a lot of the works to "the Way", has requested to site a plaque on the equipment.

I have said that Council would be unlikely to want a plaque actually sited on the equipment itself, but may be willing to consider siting one close by.

I have asked if any funding may be forthcoming both as a one off and/or ongoing and Alison has agreed to ask, but is not optimistic.

v) Village Hall

J Williams reported replacement doors are on order.

vi) Burial Ground

J Williams commented some trees in the Burial Ground needed attention.

vii) Roads and Pavements

M Arch reported the following:-

Since the last meeting, I have done a bit of work regarding SID's (mobile speed detectors). I have been in touch with a supplier which has been used by other local PC's. The cost per detector is £2,200. I am not aware that there are any grants available and there would be an additional cost of siting the detectors and provision of posts.

In addition, I have also looked into the possibility of having a 20mph speed limit along the A515 from Bond End to the current 40mph limit north of Alexandra Drive.

- Blocked drain on Main Street reported to SCC.
- Circulated details of SID's and will contact Clerk at Tatenhill Parish Council regarding their source of funding.
- 20mph limit from Bond End to 40mph limit north of Alexandra Drive. Will check with SCC regarding cost and installation time.

viii) Website

M Arch mentioned the following:-

- Planning details included.
- Reviewed option regarding a Parish Council Facebook page.

ix) Health and Safety – Health Services

R Yapp commented as follows:-

Good news Fran has now returned to YHC and is training to be an ACP, she is senior pharmacist.

Advanced clinical practitioners (ACPs) are healthcare professionals, educated to Masters level or equivalent, with the

skills and knowledge to allow them to expand their scope of practice to better meet the needs of the people they care for. The GP's are Dr Gunn, Dr Kaul and Dr Hassan.

NHS app is now live and patients can access this for various information.

Aim is to arrange further CPR training next Spring.

11) WISH LIST

P Bailey circulated an updated Wish List.

12) COMMUNITY

S Evans reported the following:-

St Peter's School to be visited in forthcoming term reference possible seasonal decoration of bus shelters in December, BKVC 2024 posters and Green Corridor Project event in 2024. Village groups to be contacted in January 2024 about BKVC, Conservation Group and Footpaths. Details at December meeting.

Discover Yoxall Outline/Overview

These proposals for the project have been prepared following Di's recent email about grants. For ease, proposals follow the format of the email.

“1. Yoxall Conservation Group

- Revamped Walks Leaflet.
- Goose Green entrance resurfacing for disabled access.
- Swarbourm Meadow benches (extra planting could be done with trees from The Woodland Trust).
- The Green Corridor – signage, planting significant Biblical plants and creation of a Bible Trail and a sensory plant area.

Jacqui agreed that we could have a 'Discover Yoxall' heading to this application to the Ward Enhancement Programme with applications between £10,000 and £50,000 available. Applications from Parish Councils are acceptable. No match funding is required but is always viewed positively. The Quiz Night last week was specifically in aid of the Green Corridor Project and over £550.00 was raised which could be used as match funding.

The applications have to achieve a 'score' of eight or more on a predetermined scorecard to be accepted by the Panel initially, but there should not be a problem meeting the criteria”.

Costings

I have been working on outline estimated costings. These (realistically) are currently at circa £35,131.80 (excl. VAT) and following Council's agreement, will require firm quotations to be obtained and I will require assistance with this to expediate.

Application Plan/Timescales

Application for the grant at the end of November. I hope to meet with Councillor Jacqui Jones for her comments on a draft application week commencing Monday, 13th November.

Initial Drawings/Plans

Reference **Green Corridor** will also be at the meeting Thursday, 2nd November.

Match Funding – if required

Through our volunteers. Quiz Night £550.00. PC has some money aside towards printing of Discover Yoxall and Walks Leaflets. Also, BKVC £250.00 prize money?

Logistics of Project

This will require coordination; however, it is achievable as project has to be completed by 31st March 2025.

PROJECT INFORMATION (PROPOSALS)

Revamped Walks Leaflet and Discover Yoxall Leaflet

Suggest we combine the two. This would provide a good practical printed version and could be used within welcome packs and also as standalone items on the website appropriate for downloading. QR codes required.

The walks leaflet to have a specific “visit Yoxall and discover our walking area” aspect. Discover Yoxall – speaks for itself! But requires a more modern approach and needs to include Woodmill shops etc.

Goose Green

Upgrading of entrance area with permeable tarmac to provide safe access for all. Following flooding, perhaps include maintenance work to footpath and replacement rubbish bin?

Swarbourn Meadow

Following the regeneration of Goose Green, Swarbourn Meadow has been left a little behind. As the only area in the village where dogs can be let off lead, we should provide the same level of access and some information for those walking dogs as in Goose Green and Milne Holme Pingle. Upgrading of entrance area with permeable tarmac to provide safe access for all (entrance may also require building up). Information board about the meadow/river x 1. Replacement of 2 x poo bins, if possible. Installation of 2 x wooden benches, fixed to slabs. (Small amount of tree planting via National Forest).

The Green Corridor

The Green Corridor aspect would continue to focus on two areas; the Churchyard and the Burial Ground.

Churchyard

Creation of two pollinator areas as indicated on the outline drawing. Wildlife friendly, low maintenance and attractive.

Bible Garden – plants linked to the bible to be planted with signage indicating what they are and perhaps biblical reference. To the south door a bay tree in a large pot, to the west end a fig tree in a large pot. (Large pots ease maintenance issues and make it difficult to steal!) There would also be other planting. The biblical plants would be threaded through both areas to create a garden trail of planting.

Burial Ground

The bible plants would continue through this area and could include items such as a Mulberry Bush. A list of the plants sourced to date by Councillor Muir are:-

“Apple, almond, bay, boxthorn, broom, cassia, crocus, coriander, cumin, fig, garlic, hyssop, Judas tree, lily, juniper, lily of the valley, mallow, mint, myrrh, myrtle, oak, olive, onion, rue, mulberry, tamarisk, tulip, walnut, willow, wormwood, vine, rockrose, sage, mint, wild rose, dill and other herbs. We have ivy, nettles and brambles in abundance! (Not all of these to be used).” (Councillor Muir email to me).

Trees require pruning – I have met with Ben Butler and await his quotation to prune/trim the trees overhanging the path and some graves. Interestingly, one of the trees is a Red Oak of approximately 180-200 years. Ben advised that we do not touch the trees until late February to ensure cut ends do not dry out buds.

Top of the burial ground – remove the three large planters (which have seen better days but could be utilised elsewhere). Relocate the black round waste bin (which sits adjacent to a wooden bench) to left-hand side of the St Peter’s

School gated entrance. This would provide an area of circa 10' x 4' to build a wooden raised bed (made from old wooden railway sleepers x 3 high for a completed height of approximately 18"). This to then become the Sensory Garden, filled with plants such as herbs, grasses, lavender – all low maintenance and drought tolerant. Bird bath feature (water) would complete this section.

Opposite side of path (west) from water tap to public footpath edge to be planted with lavender/rosemary, to create low maintenance border which is wildlife friendly and attractive.

Looking west, to where the public footpath enters the field at the back of the burial ground, to the right-hand side place a fixed wooden bench on slab base (facing eastwards down the burial ground towards churchyard). To the left-hand side of the footpath field entrance, placement of a public footpath fingerpost.

Enhance the burial ground footpath entrance to/from Savey Lane by installing a single opening wooden gate (approximately 4' width in total) adjacent to the water tap and wooden railings, defining burial ground border. This would add to the feeling of entering somewhere special – the burial ground and Green Corridor – and also allow a YPC sign to be placed on the gate for dogs to be on leads. All other entrances to the church grounds have gates, so this would be in keeping.

Signage/Information Boards – “Welcome to The Green Corridor” x 2 (possibly 3), information boards about church and bible garden, green corridor including wildlife information. Smaller plant labels with names and possible bible reference, sensory garden analysis. (Important we don't over-do this aspect!).

Additional Notes

Installation of a metal Seat of Remembrance somewhere within the Green Corridor. Location to be sourced. (Similar benches can be seen in Barton by St James' Church). Log pile x 1 in churchyard.

Church working with St Peter's School will be installing bird feeders by the entrance area to the school and also bird nest boxes (Tony Slater has been approached) and bug hotels throughout the project area as appropriate.

Other Areas

I have noticed that the **2 x YPC noticeboards** in the village are in a relatively poor state and would benefit from a refurb. This could be incorporated into the application under costings for signage and information – important for visitors and residents. I have also wondered if some sort of support by local businesses may be sought? This could then assist with match funding.

St Peter's Car Park

This would benefit from a village car park sign, information board and rubbish bin.

DRAFT/OUTLINE COSTINGS

Discover Yoxall Leaflet combined with Yoxall Walks Leaflet

	£
Design (Bryony @ £40.00/hour = budget for 6)	240.00
Print	800.00
QR Codes, say £200.00	200.00
IT (Incorporate into YPC website as downloads etc.), allow	400.00
<u>Goose Green</u>	
Tarmac entrance	6,000.00
1 x (replacement) rubbish bin	?
Footpath maintenance/repair	?
<u>Swarbourn Meadow</u>	
Tarmac main entrance	6,000.00
Build up entrance area inside gate	2,000.00
2 x recycled plastic benches on paving slabs, chain (inc inst) £500.00 each	1,000.00
Dog Poo Bins x 2 (replacement)	?
Information Board x 1 (about river, Yoxall, etc.)	1,500.00
<u>Green Corridor</u>	
Bible garden/planting in churchyard (pots) and burial ground (planted out)	950.00
Sensory garden area in burial ground with bird bath water feature	1,200.00
Tree pruning in burial ground, quote awaited, allow for	600.00

Gate entrance to burial ground	190.00
2 x benches in burial ground, 1 x remembrance; 1 @ £360.00 plus 1 @ £1,498.00	1,858.00
Signage (Green Corridor x 3), plants/trees with bible note, sign for gate), to include design work (Bryony)	3,500.00
(Church providing insect hotels, bird feeders, bird boxes	NIL
Noticeboards x 2 in village require refurbishment @ £750.00 each	1,500.00
<u>St Peter's Car Park</u>	
Car Park Sign x 1	1,500.00
Information board x 1	1,500.00
Rubbish bin x 1	?
<u>Miscellaneous</u>	
Installation work £500.00	500.00
Add in 10% contingency as Miscellaneous	3,193.80
TOTAL DRAFT COSTINGS	£35,131.80

13) **FINANCE**

a) **Cheque Payments**

It was proposed, seconded and agreed to issue the following cheques:-

DATE	CHEQUE NO.	DETAILS	£
02/11/2023	506527	Burton Conservation Volunteers	300.00
02/11/2023	506528	HMRC (PAYE)	198.00
02/11/2023	506529	ESBC (Litter Bins)	703.60
02/11/2023	506530	Parish Clerk	297.00
02/11/2023	506531	ROSPA	132.00
02/11/2023	506532	Waterplus	190.96
02/11/2023	506533	N Fleming	1,356.00
02/11/2023	506534	Ken's Countryside	76.80
02/11/2023	506535	Parish Clerk's Expenses	41.90
02/11/2023	506536	Betzy's	200.00
02/11/2023	506537	N Sutcliffe	100.00
		TOTAL:	£3,596.26

Resolved: To issue the above cheques.

14) DATE OF NEXT MEETING

- Thursday, 7th December 2023.

The meeting closed at 9.16pm

P Hughes
Chairman